

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below. The complete set of claims is provided below in compliance with the Revised Amendment format authorized by Deputy Commissioner Kunin in the January 31, 2003 United States Patent and Trademark Office release. The status of each claim is shown next to each claim number; current additions are shown by underlines and deletions are shown by strikethrough.

A |

1. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:
 - a liquid impervious outer layer;
 - a liquid pervious inner layer overlaying and operatively associated with the outer layer;
 - an absorbent core disposed between the outer layer and inner layer;
 - an apertured film, disposed between the inner layer and the absorbent core, comprising a liquid impervious film surface having a plurality of protrusions extending therefrom towards the absorbent core, each protrusion terminating at an aperture in the apertured film; and
 - wherein the absorbent article has a 200 milliliter rewet under load of less than about 1.25 grams and a 300 milliliter rewet under load of less than about 4 grams.
2. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a tissue layer surrounding the absorbent core and the apertured film.
3. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a transfer layer disposed between the inner layer and the absorbent core.
4. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film covers substantially all of a surface of the absorbent core facing the inner layer.
5. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film covers an insult region of the absorbent core.
6. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the protrusions extend in a direction substantially orthogonal to the liquid impermeable film surface.

A |

7. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the protrusions are substantially circular.
8. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the protrusions are substantially hexagonal.
9. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the protrusions are substantially linear slits.
10. (Amended) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the area of each protrusion is less at the aperture than at the liquid impervious film surface.
11. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film has a loft of between about 0.500 millimeters and about 1.500 millimeters.
12. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film has a loft of between about 0.750 millimeters and about 1.250 millimeters.
13. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film has a loft of about 1.000 millimeters.
14. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film has a porosity of between about $71.5 \text{ m}^3_{\text{air}}/\text{min}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$ and about $122 \text{ m}^3_{\text{air}}/\text{min}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$.
15. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film has a porosity of between about $84.0 \text{ m}^3_{\text{air}}/\text{min}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$ and about $109 \text{ m}^3_{\text{air}}/\text{min}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$.
16. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film has a porosity of about $96.5 \text{ m}^3_{\text{air}}/\text{min}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$.
17. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film has a drain rate of between about $597 \text{ kg/s}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$ and about $995 \text{ kg/s}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$.
18. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film has a drain rate of between about $697 \text{ kg/s}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$ and about $896 \text{ kg/s}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$.
19. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the apertured film has a drain rate of about $796 \text{ kg/s}\cdot\text{m}^2_{\text{film}}$.
20. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a 200 milliliter rewet under load of less than about 0.80 grams.

21. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a 200 milliliter rewet under load of about 0.56 grams.

22. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a 300 milliliter rewet under load of less than about 3.00 grams.

23. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a 300 milliliter rewet under load of less than about 1.94 grams.

A |
24. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a surface wetness 30 minutes after a 40 milliliter insult of less than about 27%.

25. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a surface wetness 30 minutes after an 80 milliliter insult of less than about 70%.

26. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a surface wetness 30 minutes after a 120 milliliter insult of less than about 87%.